

**MINUTES**  
**MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL**  
**TUESDAY, June 11, 2019; 6:30 P.M.**

**MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mayor Ashley Brady	Councilman Michael Baker
Mayor Pro-Tem Emerson Hunt	Councilman Joseph Frazier
Councilman Ralph Atkinson	Councilwoman Tassie Lewis
Councilman Ronald Atkinson	

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Alan Ammons, City Administrator	James Brogdon, City Attorney
Ainsley Sanders, City Clerk	Tony Flowers, Chief of Police
Patricia Brown, City Treasurer	
Cliff Wilbanks, Recreation Director	

**1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER-MAYOR ASHLEY BRADY**

Mayor Ashley Brady called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed all guests.

**2. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Ashley Brady did the Opening Prayer, and Mr. Alan Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. WELCOME CITIZENS, GUESTS & PRESS-MAYOR ASHLEY BRADY**

Mayor Brady welcomed citizens, guests, and the press (Hometown TV 8).

4. **APPROVE MINUTES OF MAY 14, 2019 AND SPECIAL MEETING MAY 21, 2019**  
*A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 14, 2019.* The motion carries unanimously.

*A motion was made by Councilman Frazier, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on May 21, 2019.*

The motion carries unanimously.

5. **MAY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

Mayor Ashley Brady named the Employee Leonard “Winky” Fore of the Public Works Department ***“May Employee of the Month.”*** Mayor Ashley Brady thanked Leonard “Winky” Fore for all he does for the City and for doing a fantastic job, and Mayor gave a token of appreciation.

6. **ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

Administrator Alan Ammons addressed Council, and stated what they have in front of them was something several months ago Green Bulb came in and did an energy audit and proposal. Mr. Ammons stated that originally what was going to take the City 10 year pay back with LED upgrades, Green bulb found out when they went to Columbia to get the approval; some good news, which it’s only going to take eight years. Mr. Ammons stated that he wanted to get it on record and let Council approve it. Mr. Ammons also stated that Green Bulb will be ready to start about July 1. ***Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to approve the information present to them to change the terms from the energy office to eight years, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt.*** The motion carries.

Mr. Ammons mentioned that he would like to update the Council once again concerning Weeds and Vegetation Ordinance. He stated that about four hundred letters were sent out noncompliance originally, and about half complied on the first go round. Mr. Ammons informed that the crews are going throughout the City and cutting where we have noncompliance. Mr. Alan stated that just about to get eighty five percent of the town covered. Mr. Ammons reported that the crew actually started around Johnakin and the day of the meeting started cutting around Blumenthal and will continue to work on that. Mr. Ammons emphasized with the new Ordinance we only have to send out one notice and if they ride by and see a lot out compliance it can be cut and pass the fees on tax record.

**7. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE**

Nothing from Attorney Brogdon.

**8. CHRISTOPHER DAVIS – ACADEMIC SUMMER CAMP**

Mr. Christopher Davis brought greetings, and stated to imagine when you came into the room no bodies in the seat, no name plates and the mantle was empty. He also mentioned who will succeed the current seats that they were sitting in. Mr. Davis stated that he did a project on what will become the fabric of black boys and young people period. He stated that he was asking questions. Mr. Chris stated that so many issues that they are fighting as young people. He also stated that he followed the law on "read to succeed" and when it passed it stated that any child that is not reading proficiently by the end of the third grade he or she will be retained. Mr. Chris stated that he created an academic super bowl championship. The vision board included envisioning from the past to the winning catch stated Mr. Chris. He stated with that he has the opportunity to bring, with the help Councilwoman Tassie Lewis Grant, some help from

Councilman Hunt. Mayor Pro Tem Hunt interjected "All them books I brought you?" Chris stated that he was able to bring a number of Authors and share them with persons in this area. WE have a serious issue in terms of literacy stated Mr. Chris. He emphasized that if the child can't read then the child can't do the math. He further made mention that he decided in terms of the Academic Summer Camp that he was proposing; that Mr. Ammons has always be so accommodating in terms of when he needed to use it, and for what he needed to use it for. He thought about the fact that there are so many other underlined issues he decided that he would retract that request. Mr. Davis wanted to take his time and go over some of the things that are on the PACT test so that the next academic year the child wouldn't have so many issues in terms of learning.

Mr. Davis also stated that he got wind that the Governor was coming for planting trees. He also stated that he thanks Council for hearing him out. Mr. Davis explained that he came to City Hall and had a misunderstanding concerning one of the City employees and the time that the Governor was coming. Mayor assured him that none of us knew the time that the Governor was coming. Mayor stated that we understand that literacy is a problem for all of our children and wants everyone to be able to read, and also stated that's why we have partnered with the Library, and they have an extensive program that is scheduled and we are working with. Mayor Brady also stated that PASA is also a program for the children. He also stated that it is not like we are sticking our hands in the sand and ignoring the issue. Mayor emphasized that the City recognized it up in the year and planned for it. Mayor Pro Tem added that all Chris life he has been teaching, and glad that he is still in the teaching mood. Mayor Pro Tem made the comment that the reason they looked at him the way they did was because they were very interested in what he had to say and sometimes a look ain't really what you think it is and we love you and hope you keep doing it, finally if you need

help we are here to support you. Councilman Ralph Atkinson asked Mr. Davis has he talked to the school board about his program and Mr. Davis affirmed that he did.

**9. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR**

Mayor stated that "some of you have in front of you a schedule that we collaborate with the library to have programs throughout the summer and these young ladies came and did a presentation and have quite a busy summer ahead of them." Mayor Brady also noted that we have also partnered with Ms. Justine with the PASA program at her facility on North Main Street along with Mrs. Ellen Baldwin over at Grices Recreation and the pool is open. Mayor also emphasized that the admission for the pool is one dollar. Mayor reiterated that we have these programs for the children.

Mayor informed that the Governor's going to be in town and thirty eight trees are going to be planted near the Hike Bike Trail next to Bobby Gerald Parkway, Withlacoochee Ave. down the Catfish Creek you could see thirty eight hole's dug. Mayor added that this is a grant by the Forestry Commission – Arbor Day Commission and twenty eight trees will be planted to include four different species of trees. Mayor stated that this Coming Saturday Governor's was supposed to be here at 9:00 and then go to Nichols and work on their Disaster Relief. Mayor said hot off the press about five o clock he found out that Governor won't be here until twelve o clock. Mayor mentioned when the Governor+ gets here there will already be some FedEx Volunteer employees that are going to be here and a lot of different employees from the Forestry Commission. Mayor Brady stated that there will be water and there will be gloves and we are going to plant the remaining of the ten trees. Mayor stated that the Governor will make his comments and then we will leave. He also stated that we are in cooperation with the City of Nichols we will

send a couple of guys and cleanup crew to support and help clean up with all the devastation that they have had.

Couple of weekends ago if you didn't have the opportunity to go to the Air Force Heritage Quintet, said the Mayor. He said that they were at the Opera House. Mayor Brady emphasized that they did an excellent job.

Mayor stated that City is cleaning the right a ways. He also said if you see any right a ways where trees are growing up around the stop signs, or fire hydrates, or anything just let us know. Mayor stated that Mr. Winky and the crews are doing an excellent job on cleaning the right a ways. Mayor stated that he is sure Mr. Winky would not mind him addressing to remind constitutes that T.V.'s and tires need to go to the recycling on Bobby Gerald Parkway and not in front of your house. Mayor also talked about Public Works and we have our trucks in. Police Department we have all our cars in, and striped and you will see them around town stated the Mayor. Mayor made mention the Vacuum truck will be delivered next week stated the Mayor. Mayor stated that we will plant trees in Catfish Creek. Mayor said "You might ask what trees have to do with helping solving a flood problem?" According to what they have been told in the DOT meetings money has been appropriated to DNR (Department of Natural Resources) and DOT are supposed to be cooperating in working on cleaning section of Catfish 576 down so they will be working on cleaning those out explained the Mayor. He also reiterated that the money has been allocated. Councilman Ralph Atkinson stated that he doesn't mean to interrupt but he was clearing up Hwy 576 to Pee Dee Bridge and the Mayor and Administrator Mr. Ammons made it clear that that is what they told them. Mayor stated that the majority of the problem is south of us and they realize that and they have flown drones over and they know what they are getting into the Mayor assures.

Mayor stated that the drainage problem on Park St. supposed to start Thursday.

C.D. Joyner three new awnings on the front door stated the Mayor. Mayor Brady stated that the awning that were there had mold and mildew and had stuff growing on it that should not be growing on them. Mayor also made mention that one of the AC units that controled the air in the foyer is not functioning. He noted that we are not requesting anything right now, but in the future that will have to be addressed. Mayor Brady mentioned that the heat and air inside the auditorium is working fine. Last thing Mayor stated was the City of Marion in conjunction with the HMRA and Chamber is sponsoring a Elvis night next Friday June 21 at the Main Street Commons, and it's a free concert, he encourage everyone to come.

Councilman Baker addressed Mr. Ammons about the grant for the storm generators Councilman Baker wanted to know had they come in. Mr Ammons stated that we have applied, but they have not come back. Councilman stated that during the previous storms we are using those areas for shelters and mainly if its winter or summer we need a back up generator just in case everyone is pushed into those areas. Mr. Ammons stated that we have been following through basically we been following through but basically what they were told was that we'd be able to get one with it and but we can always apply again. Mr. Ammons stated that we kinda made the first cut "so to speak" and possibily that we are still in the running for one. Mr. Ammons added that he did talk to David from the Emergency Manangement and we are going to get the Red Cross to come in and actually certify those facilities or shelters now they could not actually be used in a wind storm because of the type contruction and the height but anything after the initial storm we can use and maybe certify through the Red Cross.

Councilman Frazier wanted to know how much it costed in the last election. Councilman stated that "you didn't know at the time but somebody should know something now. "

Councilman Ronald Atkinson don't have anything.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson don't have anything.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis stated Pastor McKelvy is here she also stated that she doesn't know if this is the first meeting attended but thank you for coming. Councilwoman's thankful that we have structure with the program at Grices, and stated that it's imperative that we have something more than play their. She would also like to thank Cliff for all that he is doing such as the Anti- Bullying Rally and the book give a way that Mr. Christopher Davis has been promoting. Councilwoman Tassie stated that there is a lot going on in District five. She mentioned that it is summer time and the Police has been busy in the community but there is still a lot of guns and complaints and concerns so it is imperative that we remain law abiding that we look out for each other and make this City safe. Neighbors helping neighbors stated Councilwoman Lewis. She also stated that she has done a lot of door to door awareness especially for our seniors. She explained that they are scared and nervous and so she stated that she has spoken with Chief Flowers and said that she is going to do everything possible to promote safety and awareness.

Mayor Pro Tem Hunt stated that he has nothing at the time.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

With nothing further to discuss, ***A motion was made to adjourn by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Frazier.*** The motion carried unanimously.

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Mayor Ashley Brady

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Ainsley Sanders, City Clerk  
Taped: June 11, 2019